Shifting of Headquarters of the Office of the Salt Commissioner

487. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:
SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken by Government regarding shifting of the Headquarters of the Office of Salt Commissioner from Jaipur to Gandhinagar, Gujarat;

(b) whether Government has implemented the judgment of the Hon'ble High Court in this matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by when it will likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) In compliance with the Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan's order dated 04.10.2007 all the concerned parties *i.e.* Government of Rajasthan, Government of Gujarat and All India Salt Department Employees Union were given a hearing. The oral and "written submissions made by the State Governments and the Employees Union were carefully considered and it has been decided that it is not necessary to shift the Headquarters office of the Salt Commissioner from Jaipur in Rajasthan to Gandhinagar in Gujarat. In addition to the existing establishment of Salt Department in Gujarat, it has been decided to establish a camp office of Salt Commissioner in Gujarat and the Salt Commissioner has been advised to be in Gujarat for at least five working days in a month to give special attention to the issues pertaining to Salt Industry in Gujarat.

Exodus of scientists from DRDO

488. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 1,000 top scientists have quit the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in the last five years;

(b) if so, whether this has caused a great problem for the organization;

(c) if so, the main reasons for the same; and

(d) what steps Government proposes to take to check such exodus of DRDO scientists?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir. However, during the last five years (July, 2003-June, 2008), 1159 scientists, mainly at junior level, have resigned from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

(b) There has been no substantial impact of such attrition on completion of DRDO projects/programmes. The deficiencies are made up through regular recruitments.

(c) Scientists, who had resigned, have indicated personal/domestic ground as the reason for leaving DRDO. However, it is assumed that increased opportunities available in private sector industries is the main reason of such exodus.